

EARLY SUCCESSIONAL HABITAT DEVELOPMENT/MANAGEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 647



EARLY SUCCESSIONAL HABITAT DEVELOPMENT/MANAGEMENT

Early successional habitat development/management is the removal, reduction, or manipulation of plant communities to benefit wildlife or other natural communities dependent upon an early stage of plant succession.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice can be applied on a variety of land uses to increase plant community diversity and provide habitat for early successional species. This is usually accomplished by periodic vegetative disturbance, which may be mechanical, chemical, biological, or a combination of these techniques. Early successional habitat development and management is applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Create the desired plant community
- Reduce competition for space, moisture, and sunlight to favor the desired species
- Manage noxious woody plants
- Restore vegetation to control erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and enhance streamflow

- Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat including habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Improve forage accessibility, quality, and quantity for domestic and wild animals
- Protect life and property from wildfire

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Early Successional Habitat Development/Management is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

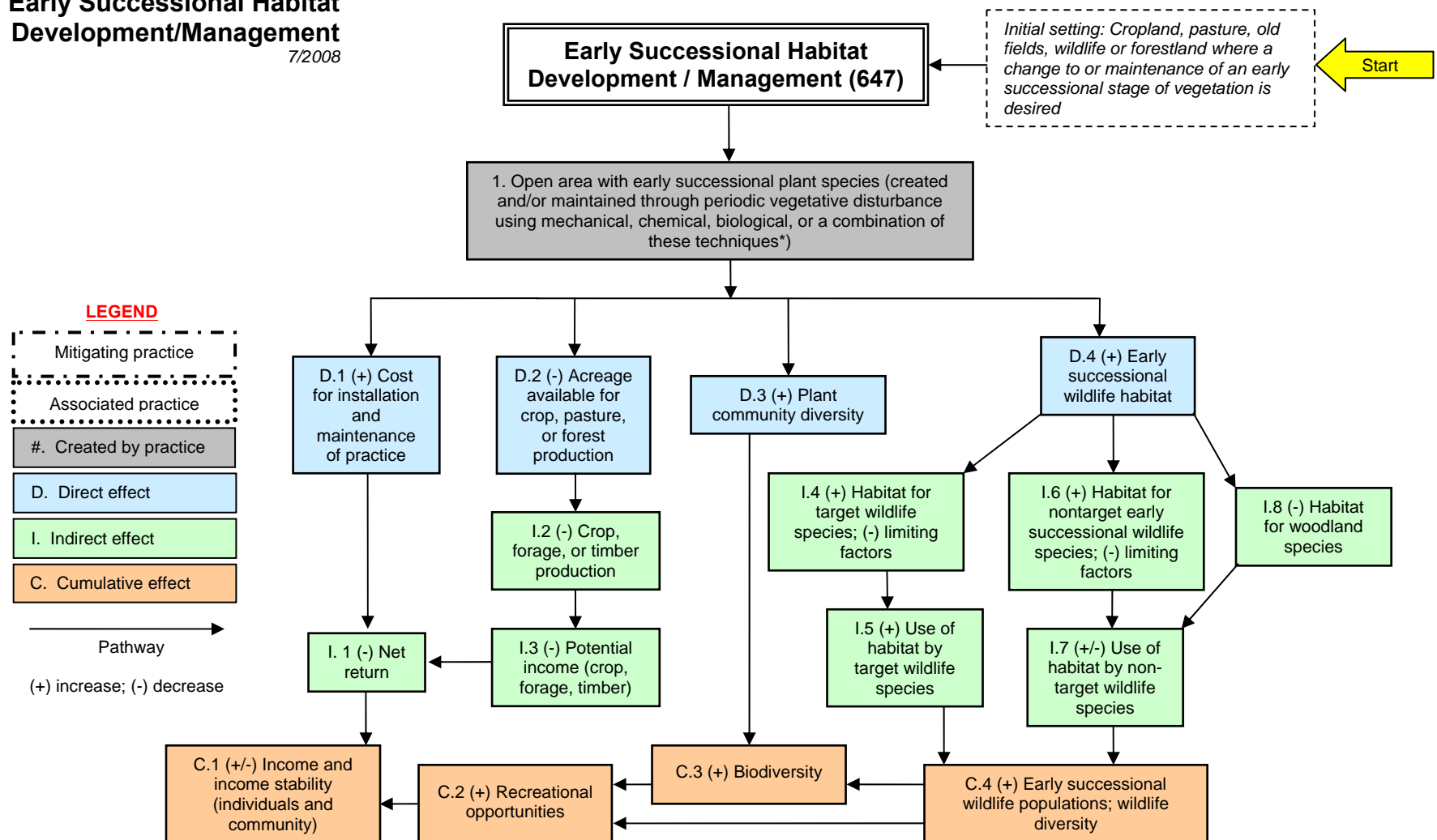
- Field Borders (386)
- Forage Harvest Management (511)
- Land Clearing (460)
- Pest Management (595)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.